



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 947

**DATE:** October 1, 2010

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals Not Enrolled With Iowa Care

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Limited Emergent Hospital Coverage for IowaCare Members

**EFFECTIVE:** Services Rendered On or After October 1, 2010

The 2010 Iowa Legislature appropriated limited funding (\$2 million) for emergency hospital services for IowaCare enrolled members, when those services are rendered by a hospital located and licensed in Iowa that is not participating in the IowaCare program, but which is otherwise enrolled with Iowa Medicaid. This funding is for inpatient hospital charges only and does not cover physician or other practitioner charges. Reimbursement for these services will end when the funding is exhausted.

Per new IowaCare rules at 441 IAC 92.8(7), the following criteria must be met for non-IowaCare hospitals to receive reimbursement:

- Member must be enrolled with IowaCare at the time of the service. Providers should verify eligibility via the ELVS line or the eligibility portal.
- The service is an emergency as designated by the department and it is not medically possible to postpone provision of the service. The IME Emergent Diagnosis code list is located at <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/docs/EmergencyDiagnosisCodes.pdf>.
- It is not medically possible to transfer the member to an IowaCare provider, or the IowaCare provider does not have sufficient capacity to accept the member.
- The emergent service is followed by an inpatient admission at the treating, non-IowaCare hospital.
- The treating hospital has consulted with the applicable IowaCare hospital and both hospitals agree that conditions for payment are met.
  - For IowaCare members residing in Polk County, treating hospitals must contact Broadlawns Medical Center, Office of the Chief Medical Officer at 515-282-2423.
  - For all other IowaCare members, treating hospitals must contact the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics at 1-866-890-5969.
  - In circumstances where it is not feasible for the treating hospital to contact the IowaCare hospital, such as when an IowaCare member presents outside of regular business hours, the treating hospital must contact the IowaCare hospital as soon thereafter as is practicable. Typically, such would occur the morning of the next business day.

Claim forms should be completed in accordance with the UB-04 instructions contained on the IME website at <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/index.html>. Field 15, Source of Admission, must indicate Emergency Room. In addition to the claim form, billing hospitals must submit documentation to support collaboration with the IowaCare hospital. That documentation can be either attached to a paper claim or submitted using the Attachment Control Form when billing electronically. Claims submitted will be reviewed by the IME prior to payment to ensure they meet the criteria above.

The IME will process these claims as they are received until the \$2 million appropriation is exhausted. Once the appropriation has been expended, all other emergent hospital services (at a non-IowaCare hospital) for IowaCare members are the responsibility of the member. This would not supercede any EMTALA requirements that hospitals render necessary care to stabilize any patient without insurance who presents to the ER. Practitioner charges continue to remain the responsibility of the member. Transportation charges, including ambulance charges, are not covered by this appropriation and are also the IowaCare member's responsibility.

The IME appreciates your partnership as we work together to serve the needs of Iowa Medicaid members. If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or locally (in Des Moines) at 515-256-4609, or by e-mail at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).